

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A method of ~~ameliorating~~ treating a human subject suffering loss of photoreceptor function in a vertebrate eye, said method comprising:

administering an effective amount of an opsin-binding synthetic retinoid in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle to a ~~vertebrate eye comprising a mutant opsin protein having a reduced affinity for 11-cis-retinal, wherein the mutant opsin protein is stabilized and~~ human subject, expressing a mutant opsin protein with a substitution of Proline 23 by Histidine (P23H mutant opsin protein), to treat loss of photoreceptor function in said subject ~~is ameliorated~~.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is orally administered to a vertebrate.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered to a vertebrate.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid comprises a synthetic retinoid of formula I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, or XIII.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is a 9-cis-7 ring retinal or an 11-cis-7 ring retinal.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the synthetic retinoid is cycloheptatrienyldene 11-cis-locked retinal or cycloheptatrienyldene 9-cis-locked retinal.

22-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered by eye drops.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered by intraocular injection.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered by periocular injection.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is an 11-cis-7-ring retinal.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is orally administered to a vertebrate.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered to a vertebrate.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered by eye drops.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered by intraocular injection.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered by periocular injection.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the loss of photoreceptor function is due to~~ said subject is suffering from retinitis pigmentosa.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is a derivative of 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal, wherein said derivative comprises the 20 carbon backbone of said 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal.

48. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is an acyclic derivative of 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal, wherein said acyclic derivative comprises the 20 carbon atoms of said 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal.